

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 38105.830002.US0
Express Mail No. EL948575723US

IN RE UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

5

FOR

**ANTENNA WITH SHORTED ACTIVE AND PASSIVE PLANAR
LOOPS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME**

OF

GOVIND R. KADAMBI

10

TED S. HEBRON

WILLIS R. HARDY

AND

SRIPATHI YARASI

15

ANTENNA WITH SHORTED ACTIVE AND PASSIVE PLANAR LOOPS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present invention is related to United States Patent
5 Application serial number 10/314,791, filed December 12, 2002, titled COMPACT
LOW PROFILE SINGLE FEED MULTI BAND PRINTED ANTENNAS, Kadambi et al.,
United States Patent Application serial number 10/135,312, filed April 29, 2002
titled SINGLE FEED TRI BAND PIFA WITH PARASITIC ELEMENT, Kadambi et al.,
and United States Provisional Patent Application serial number 60/424,850, filed
10 November 8, 2002, titled OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF SLOT GAP IN PIFA DESIGN,
Kadambi et al.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to antenna and, more particularly, to
antenna having shorted planar loops.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 [0003] The cellular communication technology has witnessed a gradual
and increasing trend of using internal antennas instead of more conventional
external antenna. Cellular communication also has experienced an increase and
an enhanced emphasis on multi band and multi system capabilities of cellular
20 handsets. These changes have caused a growing demand for single feed single
and multi band internal antennas for system applications comprising both the
cellular and non-cellular frequency bands, which include GPS and Bluetooth.

[0004] The Planar Inverted F-Antenna (PIFA) has proven to be a versatile
choice as an internal antenna for the multi band and multi system antenna.
25 However, the PIFA requires a relatively large volume of space in present

compact wireless devices. Despite many improvements in PIFAs, the volume or amount of space the PIFA occupies continues to be a significant determining factor for its desirable performance.

5 [0005] In view of the emerging constraints on the available volume for internal antennas, there is a need to look for potentially more efficient planar antenna configurations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 [0006] To attain the advantages of and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, an antenna with shorted active and passive planar loops in provided. The antenna is comprised of a conductive trace forming a first radiating element residing over a ground plane. The radiating element forms a loop antenna having a gap. The loop antenna has a radiating edge opposite a non radiating edge. A shorting element and feed tab are located on the non radiating edge. Multi band operating of the antenna is achieved by placing a second
15 radiating element where at least a portion of the second radiating element is internal to a geometry formed by the first radiating element.

[0007] The foregoing and other features, utilities and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of a preferred embodiment of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying
20 drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0008] The above and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like
25 reference characters refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

[0009] FIG. 1 is a plan view of an embodiment of an antenna consistent with the present invention;

[0010] FIG. 1A is an elevation view of the antenna of FIG. 1;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a plan view of another embodiment of an antenna
5 consistent with the present invention;

[0012] FIG. 3A is a plan view of another embodiment of an antenna consistent with the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 3B is a plan view of another embodiment of an antenna consistent with the present invention;

10 [0014] FIG. 4 is a plan view of another embodiment of an antenna consistent with the present invention; and

[0015] FIG. 5 is a plan view of another embodiment of an antenna consistent with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

15 [0016] FIGS. 1-5 and the following paragraphs describe some embodiments of the present invention. Like reference characters are used wherever possible to identify like components or blocks to simplify the description of the various subcomponents described herein. More particularly, the present invention is described in relation to particular embodiments thereof;
20 however, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand on reading the following disclosure that other configurations are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0017] Conventionally, almost all PIFA designs involve the formation of a slot on the radiating element of the PIFA. The slot forms a quasi partitioning
25 of the radiating element allowing the PIFA to operate in multiple frequency bands. As is well known in the art, the design parameters of interest dictate the position of the slot with respect to a feed post and a shorting post as well as the

slot's contour and length. The slot not only quasi partitions the PIFA to provide multiple band operation, but also is a reactive loading tool to reduce the resonant frequencies of the radiating element. The radiating element of a PIFA also contains capacitive loading elements that are usually bent segments extending
5 from the edges of the radiating plane towards, but not touching, the ground plane.

[0018] While both the slot loading and capacitive loading degrade the gain and bandwidth of the PIFA, they are useful techniques for tuning that does not increase the physical size of the PIFA. However, the overall size of the PIFA
10 does constrain the amount of slot loading and capacitive loading permissible.

[0019] When the volume wireless devices allot for antenna decreases, it decreases the permissible slot length that, in turn, decreases the slot loading. With conventional PIFA designs, the size constraints often make it difficult to realize the single or dual resonance at appropriate frequencies.

15 [0020] It has been discovered, however, that single or multiple band performance can be achieved using planar loop antennas. The planar loop antennas provide appropriate response using smaller volumes than conventional PIFAs.

[0021] Loop antennas of the present invention can take various
20 configurations including square, rectangular, circular, elliptical, meander, or the like. Conventionally, loop antennas operate at half wavelength for desirable performance. Because conventional loop antennas operate at the half wavelength, they are not associated with shorting strips or vias connecting the radiating element to the ground plane. Further, conventional loop antennas are
25 not usually placed above the ground plane.

[0022] To make the conventional loop antenna operable for internal antennas associated with wireless devices, the loop antenna is oriented above the ground plane and for quarter wavelength operation. These modifications to the

conventional loop antenna are due, in part, to the limited volume available for internal antennas in most wireless devices.

5 **[0023]** Shorting the radiating element of the loop antenna to the ground plane still allows for operation at the appropriate resonant frequency. Further, shorting the radiating element and the ground plane for quarter wavelength operation results in a desirable reduction in the size of the loop. Of course, placing the radiating element above the ground plane and shorting the radiating element to the ground plane changes the resonance characteristics of the loop antenna.

10 **[0024]** A gap or slot provided in loop antenna of the present invention provides additional control of the desired resonance characteristics of the antenna. Multi band operation is achieved by providing two loop antennas coupled through a connecting stub, typically near the feed point of the antenna. Alternatively, multi band operation can be achieved by shorting a combination of
15 active and passive (parasitic) planar loops to the ground plane. It is believed the combination of active and passive loops imparts an easy control of the resonance characteristics of a particular band of operation without significantly influencing another band.

20 **[0025]** As one of skill in the art would recognize on reading the disclosure of the present invention, one drawback of conventional loop antennas is the limited ability to tune the resonance frequency of the loop antenna. The shorting of the radiating element to the ground plane, the placement of the gap or slot on the loop and the attachment of capacitive loading plates to the edges of the loop provide increase ability to tune the resonance frequency(ies) of the loop
25 antenna associated with the present invention.

[0026] Referring now to FIG. 1, an embodiment of the present invention is shown. FIG. 1 shows a top or plan view of a loop antenna 100. Loop antenna 100 has a radiating element 102 residing a distance from a ground plane 104.

Ground plane 104 is shown having a much larger area than radiating element 102 for illustrative purposes only, and ground plane 104 could have other sizes of larger, smaller, or equal area. Optionally, a dielectric carriage 106 can reside between ground plane 104 and radiating element 102 as a matter of design
5 choice. The shape of loop antenna 100 is shown as a conventional rectangular shape, but the shape is largely dictated by the available space associated with a wireless device (not specifically shown). Thus, loop antenna 100 can have the linear configuration as shown or alternative geometric and/or random configurations.

10 **[0027]** Loop antenna 100 additionally comprises a slot or gap 108 in radiating element 102, a shorting element 110 shorting radiating element 102 to ground plane 104, and a feed tab 112. Shorting element 110 extends from the edge of radiating element 102 to ground plane 104 while feed tab 112 extends from the edge of radiating element 102 towards ground plane 104, but does not
15 actually connect to ground plane 104. Placement of gap 108, shorting element 110, and feed tab 112 is largely dependent on the resonant frequency(ies) associated with loop antenna 100. Tuning characteristics of loop antenna 100 can be further enhanced by the placement of one or more capacitive loading plates (not specifically shown in FIG. 1) along one or more edges of radiating
20 element 102. The capacitive loading plates, similar to feed tab 112, would extend from the edge of radiating element 102 towards ground plane 104, but would not actually connect to ground plane 104. Antenna 100 has been shown to have improved gain over conventional PIFAs of similar size and decreased volume compared to conventional loop antennas using half wavelength
25 operation.

[0028] Referring now to FIG. 2, another embodiment of the present invention is shown. For convenience, the ground plane and optional dielectric carriage are not specifically shown. Similar to antenna 100, antenna 200

includes a radiating element 202, a gap 208, a shorting element 210, and a feed tab 212. Further, antenna 200 could have one or more capacitive loading plates arranged along the edge of radiating element 202. Unlike antenna 100, however, antenna 200 includes at least one matching stub 214. Unlike PIFA matching
5 stubs, matching stub 214 can reside internal to the geometry of radiating element 202. Placement and size of gap 208, shorting element 210, feed tab 212, capacitive loading plate(s), and matching stub 214 are largely determined by desired resonant frequency characteristics. Without loss of generality, the matching stub 214 also can be attached to that edge of the radiating element that
10 is opposite to the one containing the shorting element 210.

[0029] Antennas 100 and 200 are generally associated with single band operation. FIGS. 3A and 3B show exemplary embodiments of loop antennas 300A and 300B capable of multi band operation. FIGS. 3A and 3B are plan views of antenna 300A and 300B, respectfully, and antennas 300A and 300B may
15 be arranged above a ground plane and dielectric carriage, similar to antennas 100 and 200, but not specifically shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B. Referring first to FIG. 3A, antenna 300A includes an outer boundary radiating element 302 and an inner radiating element 304. Inner radiating element 304 is connected to outer boundary radiating element 302 at connection 306. It is believed improved
20 operation of antenna 300A occurs when inner radiating element 304 is located close to a non radiating edge of outer boundary radiating element 302. The edge of the outer boundary radiating element 302 containing the shorting post 310 is referred to as the non radiating edge of the element 302. In this example, a feed tab 308 extends towards a ground plane substantially adjacent connection 306,
25 although other placements are possible. Connection 306 or auxiliary feed provides power from feed tab 308 to inner radiating element 304 making inner radiating element active. A shorting element 310 exists on outer boundary radiating element 302 extending between the outer boundary radiating element

302 and the ground plane (not specifically shown). In this case, shorting element 310 extends into a gap 312 in outer boundary radiating element 302. The position and size of inner radiating element 304 helps regulate upper band resonance frequencies of antenna 300A. Also, while shown with a linear
5 configuration, inner radiating element 304 can have alternative geometries, such as a meanderer geometry, or the like.

[0030] FIG. 3B shows a top plan view of antenna 300B. Antenna 300B is similar to antenna 300A in that it contains outer boundary radiating element 302, inner radiating element 304, feed tab 308, and short 310, which as shown is
10 residing in a gap 312. Instead of connection 306, however, antenna 300B has an additional shorted element 314 in gap 312 and the inner radiating element 304 is connected to the shorted element 314. Because inner radiating element 304 is not connected to a power source, it is passive and therefore the inner radiating element 304 serves as a parasitic element to the outer boundary radiating element
15 302.

[0031] For both antenna 300A and 300B, additional inner radiating elements 304 can be used to increase the number of operating bands of the antenna. Also, it is possible to combine active and passive inner radiating elements.

20 [0032] Referring now to FIGS. 4 and 5, plan views of antennas 400 and 500 are shown illustrative of the present invention. Referring first to FIG. 4, antenna 400 includes outer boundary radiating element 402, and inner radiating element 404. As shown, outer boundary radiating element 402 can have various dimensions and does not have to be a consistent thickness around the loop. Inner
25 radiating element 404 can similarly vary in size along its length, and can have alternative geometries, such as the meanderer line shown. Similar to the other antennas disclosed above, antenna 400 includes a gap 406, a feed tab 408, and a

shorting element 410. As a passive or parasitic element, inner radiating element 404 has a shorted element 412.

[0033] Strategically arranged along the radiating edge of outer boundary radiating element 402 can reside one or more capacitive loading plates 414. The
5 size, shape and number of capacitive loading plates 414 depend on antenna 400's resonant frequency requirements.

[0034] Antenna 400 is capable of multi band operation. Multi band operation of antenna 400 is achieved by, among other things, changing the geometry of the gap and/or addition of multiple passive inner loops.

10 [0035] Referring now to FIG. 5, antenna 500 is shown. As can be seen, antenna 500 is mostly identical to antenna 400, but includes a matching stub 502. Use of matching stub 502, as shown, or additional shorting posts and/or strips increases the robustness of the antenna with regard to multi band operation.

15 [0036] While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various other changes in the form and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.